GHOST TOWNS OF SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

Glenn J. Sneed
1977

Perry County:

Appleton
Barwell (see Jamestown)
Beacoup Mine — Not Neising
Berlin
Brownsville (see Conant)
Camden
Clinch
Conant
Cornell Prairie
Craig (see Winkle)
Daily (see Mathew)
Denmark
Denny
Eagle (see Eagletown)
Eagletown
Four Mile Prairie
Galloway (see Pleasant Shade)
Galum
Grasshopper (see Jamestown)
Holden
Hornville
Iowa
Jacktown (see Denmark)
Jamestown
Leesburg
Matthews
Mt. Hawkins
Nine Mile Prairie
Old DuQuoin
Pennyville
Penwarden Hill (see Pleasant Shade)
Pleasant Shade
Pyatt's
Rice
Rodney
Shakerag
Sifert (see Old DuQuoin)
Todd's Mill
Wallsend
Winkle
Other Communities

Appleton, 9/28/53 in sec 33, T4S, R1W
Beaucoup Mines, 12/17/71 on Cairo and Short Line RR at dividing line between secs 14 & 15, T5S, R3W. OK Beaucoup broke through and flooded mine. Mr.Niesing buried there 1880-1918. Body petrified. No-No-Nought
Berlin, sec 17, T4S, R1W by Jos.B.Curlee. Nathan actually platted the village of 64 lots 6/11/1840.Deed rcd B/428.
Camden, SW corner of sec 5, T4S, R2W..1 mi east of Todd's Mill Church on the road. Deed rcd K/66. Never had a PO.
Clinch, 3/4 mi N. Old DuQuoin. Eaton's Mine. Peabody operated mine until'54
Conant,1871 SW¼ SW¼ sec 25, T5S, R4W.
Denmark, blacktop road 7mi W. Pyatt's Wye.NW NW sec 4,T6S,R4W. 12/18/65.PO
Denny, on Eldarøado Branch of the IC RR in Holt's Prairie.Station built in sec 33,T5S,R2W. Only house owned by Thos.Johnson.
Eagletown, NW¼ sec 5,T6S,R1W.E of IC RR. NE and adj.St.John.Now considered part of St.John. Dunn Bros concrete plant here.
Four Mile Prairie, an area of grassland between Beacoup and Galum Creeks. Jno.Flack settled here 1799.Built log cabin on a hill in SW¼ sec 11, T6S,R3W. Near Shawnee to Kask.trail. 1817 road was built by money from Congress. Surveyed by Abner Flack.4Mi PO estb. 3/29/68. PO moved to Pennyville 2/20/77 and renamed Pennyville.
Galum,exact location unknown.Estb.prob.in log house along Kaskaskia Trail 7/25/23 in Jackson Co.Became Perry Co. without moving in 1827.Last closing 5/13/75.J.J.Pyatt,A.J.Baird,and G.Vallentine lived along here. May have been in one of their homes.

Holden, NW NW sec 32,T5S,R1W for Marion Teague 5/18/85. Coal mine (Perry Co.Coal Co), brick kiln,and company store here.No PO. Grain elevator where mine was sunk.

Hornville, SW NE sec 19,T6S,R1W 9/24/88.Strip mine spoil banks now.

Iowa, First PO in Par.Pr.Sec 23,T5S,R1W.Aquilla Combs opened first store in 1837. PO in one corner of store 12/6/37.Disc.finally 10/3/56. Thos.Jones and Rubin Kelly had stores here. Bl 3 school and bl 18 church. Par.Pr.Baptist Church org 1835 and only thing left of Iowa, together with the cem.

Jamestown,Allen Coal Co.sand mine sec 34,T6S,R4W 10/1/1920.Village platted around mine. Named for James Allen.Ran to Galum Creek.Acquired name of Barwell and nickname of Grasshopper.(**Levi Green first settled here and it was called Greentown for years.Oldtimers tell this as late as 1978.Levi Green burying ground here. ers)

Leesburg,On St.Louis-Shawneetown Trail. An inn operatied by Isaac and Abr. Lee. NE¼ sec 21, T4S,R2W.(check this)PO prob. in the inn. 8/7/1834. Final closing 9/7/39.

Matthews, Tenn.pioneers settled here 1835-1830.Grassland 4mi across between Galum and Beaucoup Creeks that had been named 4Mi Pr. by Flack.These people were Pyatt,Weatherford,Smith,Winters,Ahlers,and Crain.Sta.blt 1899 and named Groves Sta. on sec 31,T6S,R2W. IC RR. In 1899 Scott Matthews from Tenn. POopened 1/21/01 under name of Daily. Changed to Matthews 7/23/03.Disc. 2/29/36. Wm.Sullivan lives where store stood.Ruins of old elevator across tracks.

Mount Hawkins, Samuel Hawkins of English desc.Among his ancestors,Sir Jas. Hawkins,Capt. of ship bringing first load of slaves to this country, also John Hawkins Gov. of Tenn. To Shawneetown 1834 and PC 1837. Built log house SE cor NW¼ sec 5, T5S, R1W beside Shawneetown-St.Louis trail.Opened Mt.Hawkins PO in his living room 7/1/1840.Closed 2/21/57. Why Mount?Located on level land of Paradise Prairie.Old log house fell in to ruin and was torn down. New brick dwelling built nearby 1974.

Old DuQuoin, sec 26 & 27,T6S,R1W on Shawneetown to Kaskaskia Post Road(?) State Hwy 14. Legand tells us named for Chief Juan Baptiste DuCoine, the half breed chif of the Tamaroa Indians. He d. 1811 before DuQuoin settled. Really named for his grandson,Louis Jefferson DuQoine (?).Daniel Dry opened a store on the hill.Buildings moved to DuQuoin in 1855 when RR failed to go through.Female Academy 1852. Used as an orphanage at one time.Academy burned in 1910.

Pennyville on Pyatt blacktop.NW cor SW¼ sec 14,T6S,R3W across from Pyramid St.Park.Independence Rule settled here.His house a stop for mail rt. Four Mile PO moved a mile east on the road and name changed to Pennyville 2/20/77.Mail carried by man on horseback.Independence Rule acquired nickname "Penny" as a short form of Independence.Dr.Huntsinger of P'ville had an office here.Practiced one day a week.School and two or three dwellings here.Rule a colorful man.No store,blacksmith shop or mill. PO and Drs.office.IC RR built nearby in 1886 and PO moved to Pyatt Sta.The school closed.Dr.ceased to come.Now stripped

Pleasant Shade, abt 3/4 mi west of the bridge that crosses Little Muddy River on the old St.Louis to Shawneetown Post Road in sec 29,T5S,R1W Home of Robt.M.Galloway here. Pleasant Shade PO estb. in his farmhouse 6/9/47. Tom Penwarden bought the Galloway farm and the place became known as Penwarden Hill. Robt.Galloway a State Legislature and he introduced bill to make the county line the Little Muddy River instead of the 3rd PM. Bill passed in 1835. Legend that states ABRAHAM LINCOLN spent a night in the Galloway home.The truth is not known.Today only the well remains of Ple asant Shade.Earthen abutment of the old Galloway Bridge over Little Muddy River can still be seen.

Pyatts, Sam'l Pyatt and two young nephews came from Jackson Co. 1829 (Ozborns)and found a place in 4Mi Pr.where there were three hills within a quarter of a mile of each other.

Rice, sec 1 & 12,T4S,R3W on 3Mi Pr. 9 mi N.P'ville.Babbs opened gen.store there 1893.PO opened 3/12/94 and closed 1/15/1900. Received name of Rice from PM. Ray/Roy Hunter bought store from Bibbs,1900.At one time has had store,Jones Bros.blacksmith shop,Jones and Hutchings molasses mill,milk condensing plant.Dr.Holman MD. Old Bapt.church gone.New one.

Rodney,PO in front room of Sam'l T. Campell(fa of Dyer)7/14/98.Mail carried on horseback.Mr.Campbell only PM Rodney ever had.Disc.1/15/1901. In NE cor of sec 19, T5S, R1E. Today old two story gabled frame house stands in grove of trees that must be a century old.Well kept. Farm home of Chas.Ragland a/k/a Mid A.M.Dairy Farm.

Shakerag,Tavern on Shawneetown-Kaskaskia Post Road where tipple of Truax Traer Buring Star #2 stands.Not a regular stage stop but the coach would stop and pick up passengers along the trail.Tavern keeper used white apron to flag coach.Would not take it off but wave it with both hands while tied around his waist.Passengers said "What's he doing, shaking the rag?" so the tavern acquired the name "Shakerag". Another story is that a couple by the name of Shake and Rag got md. Set up a store and put sign in front "Shake Rag.". A store was later put up there but not run by Shake or Rag.Store remained until middle of the 19th century.A large canvas sign reading Shakerag was over the store.Tattered and torn it flapped in the ~~xxxx~~ wind long after store closed.First settlers were the Kennedy's, then Johnsons, and later George Short from England.All in Shakerage before 1855 when IC RR built through here. Shakerag ball originated here. No Dr. here but Dr.Templeton attended the sick here later.

Todd's Mill,NW corner T4S, R2W along Beaucoup Creek. Esb. by Joseph Todd who came to Amer. from Loundondery,Irel in 1830 thence to Ill 1854. Set up sawmill which his son,James continued to operate until 1870. Todds were Catholics and he sawed and donated lumber for church. Never had a store or PO.

Winkle, laid out 10/23/71 by Wm.Craig.Sta. on St.Louis Branch of IC RR. Sec 25,T4S,R2W Rcd Y/577. 8 mi W. of Pinckneyville on Hwy 13. Store and PO opened by Craig 2/17/71. Village platted around store 8 mo later.Winkle family sank Bald Eagle Mine ½mi W. near RR. They built company houses(75) and Co.store. Store called "Winkle Mercantile and Agricultural Co." Frame hotel. Planning Mill.School. PO closed in 1922.Hotel burned as did Oliver Winkles big two story house across the hwy from the school. Tom Goddard in business there for 62yrs.Depot and freight house sold and moved away.School closed in 1959.

Other communities

Cornell Prairie PO opened 3/5/50, closed 4/7/1868. Location unknown
Wallsend PO, opened 3/16/73 and closed 5/5/74. Location unknown
Nine Mile Prairie PO opened 2/25/33 and closed 4/25/56. Located somewhere in Nine Mile Pr.

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Last Man In A Ghost Town

This is HARRY THOMAS GODDARD a/k/a HARRY T. GODDARD. He had two sons, one of whom was a MIA in the war. Howard Luthy says he came to Winkle as a Clerk for the mine. After bankrupcy & mines quit, Goddard took over and ran the store. Never owned.

The Cour

August 8, 1985 COUNTY JOURNAL, Percy, Il.

By Grover Brinkman

Someone once wrote that God must love small towns that go to sleep at night. The quotation might be broad enough to encompass many roadside communities in Southern Illinois called "bedroom towns", where people commute to work, come home at day's end and go to bed. No traffic, only the twitter of birds seeking shelter for the night, the singsong of cicadas, the tiny glow of lightning bugs.

But there is another side to this coin. The ghost town. The same "stillness" is here but of a different kind. Southern Illinois has several ghost and near-ghost towns, some of them ancient, some recent. These towns failed because of a dramatic change in the local economy, too big to cope with.

One of these Southern Illinois towns is Winkle, in Perry County.

This isn't a resume of the town's skid into obscurity but of one of its citizens, the late Tom Goddard. He was, literally, the last holdout in this ghost town.

Back in pre-depression days Winkle flourished. Tom Goddard had the largest store in the area, selling everything from toothpicks to barbed wire. There were no less than ten people, running the store.

Goddard had been a business man in Winkle for 62 years before he turned the key in the sprawling two-story brick building that had been home for years.

The saga of Winkle, its rise and fall, is the story of coal. The few homes in Winkle today are owned by a coal company, rented for "peanuts", as is, no facilities other than electricity. All of the town's business places have vanished. As long as Tom Goddard was alive, one could buy a loaf of bread here. But not anymore.

Winkle, midway between Coulterville and Pinckneyville on Illinois State 13, was once a booming community. The high steel tipple and the still-taller stack of the deep-shaft Bald Eagle coal mine was visible for miles over the flat prairie terrain. The No. 6 coal vein here was all of 9 feet thick. The bi-weekly payroll at the mine topped $15,000, in days when a dollar was worth a dollar. Miners were making money, and spending it.

Tom Goddard

Winkle had the usual downtown business area alongside the Illinois Central (now IC-G) tracks, a three story hotel, a good depot, Goddard's big store, a feed mill, barber shop, cafe, even a weekly newspaper, The **Winkle Eagle.**

Suddenly the depression of the thirties clamped an iron fist on Winkle, and the mine closed. Something happened that no one presumed could happen.

Soon afterward, realizing that the mine would not reopen, citizens started moving out. A salvage firm pulled all of the steel and equipment from the deep mine, closed its shaft. The railroad pulled up its spur trackage as well.

One by one the business places shuttered. But not Tom Goddard's big store. "I'm too old to move," was his daily lament. "I'm still hoping for better days, a strip mine maybe."

But that was wishful thinking. Now Tom Goddard is gone as well. The big brick building stood idle for a few years, then was given the headache ball.

The Goddard store at least had a "few hours of glory", when he advertised a "quitting business sale". People flocked in from far and near to buy the many collectibles gathering dust on the shelves, old medicine and tonic bottles, button shoes, milk glass, butter molds, and various other trivia that was popular at the turn of the century.

It's sad to see a human rise and fall. It is equally sad to see a town do the same thing. But it happens all the time, not only to small communities, but to big towns, people at executive level, and family businesses of long standing. Life cycles; there is a peak and a trough.

Standing on the deserted weed-infested blacktop that once was Winkle's main street, one sees the brome sedge creeping in, wiping out the coal scars. Soon Winkle will go back to the original prairie from which it emerged.